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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

83-02044

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March 11, 1983

Mr. Stanley Sporkin
General Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Stan:

Under the provisions of Senate Resolution 400, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is charged with the responsibility "to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence activities and programs of the United States Government, and to...report to the Senate concerning such intelligence activities and programs."

Most of the work of the Committee is, of necessity, conducted in secret. Nonetheless, the Committee believes that intelligence activities should be as accountable as possible. Therefore, the Committee has routinely published an unclassified report of its oversight activities every two years since its establishment in the spring of 1976.

Enclosed for your information is the most recent copy of this report, covering the oversight activities of the Select Committee on Intelligence during the 97th Congress (January 1, 1981 to December 31, 1982). I recommend it to you and would welcome any comments which you might want to offer regarding it.

Sincerely,


Barry Goldwater
Chairman

Enclosures





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No. 22

Senate

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. GOLDWATER. Mr. President, I send to the desk a report on the activities of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and I ask unanimous consent to have 1,000 copies of this report printed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GOLDWATER. The Senate Intelligence Committee submits this report of its activities covering the period January 1, 1981, to December 31, 1982. Under the provisions of Senate Resolution 400, the committee has been charged with the responsibility to carry out oversight over the intelligence activities of the United States. Most of the work of the committee is, of necessity, conducted in secrecy. Nonetheless, the committee believes that intelligence activities should be as accountable as possible. Therefore, we submit this public report to the Senate in order to meet this responsibility.

I believe this report will reflect my view that the intelligence community is alive and well, and getting better every day despite the turmoil it experienced in the 1970's. This committee was formed 7 years ago as a result of that turmoil and, I am happy to say, the recovery process started following the committee's formation.

Mr. President, we are the only nation in the world that makes the in-

telligence community accountable to the general public. No other government produces the kind of public report that summarizes the activities of its intelligence oversight. In effect, we have made our intelligence services the most public secret services in the world. This action, along with the well established budget authorization procedure, has made the American system of legislative oversight of the intelligence community unique.

The budget authorization process is standard procedure now. No other nation in the world does this. I believe it is the best method of accountability there is in our Government. This method makes it clear that our constitutional responsibilities are fulfilled, while at the same time maintaining the confidentiality necessary for an effective intelligence system.

We examine in detail the budgets of the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and the intelligence activities of the Department of Defense, State, and Treasury, and of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. This function is a key aspect of effective congressional oversight of the intelligence community. Through this process, we can determine if intelligence continues to be well managed and responsive to our needs. It gives us a chance to focus on a wide range of issues, all important to our national interests, such as international trade and monetary policy, nuclear proliferation, energy, political

developments in Third World countries, international terrorism, and narcotics.

Mr. President, even covert action, the most secret and sensitive activity of the intelligence community, comes under the scrutiny of the Intelligence Committee. The committee has received detailed reports and has heard testimony on covert action programs, and has actively monitored the progress of those programs once launched. Certain covert action programs have been modified to take into account views expressed by the committee. Under the provisions of Senate Resolution 400, the committee has also provided briefings on some programs to members of other committees.

In addition, the committee has been active in reviewing covert action during the annual budget authorization process. In that connection, the committee has continued its practice of annual review of each covert action line-item by line-item. Given the sensitivity of information regarding covert action, and the Presidential findings regarding it, this report does not discuss the details of these matters although they occupied a substantial amount of time and attention of our committee members.

This report shows that the committee and staff were involved in many areas of interest to our national security and foreign policy. For example, we have examined whether the intelligence community was effectively responding to the situation in Central

America. The committee also made an inquiry into the conduct of the Director of Central Intelligence. It looked into the serious problems of technology transfer and it supported legislation to protect our agents' identities from being disclosed.

Recent years have witnessed a growth in public awareness of the importance of intelligence that is timely, relevant, and of the highest quality. Accurate intelligence is required for informed decisionmaking on many critical defense and foreign policy issues, such as the development of national nuclear weapons programs or Soviet use of chemical agents in warfare.

Mr. President, my firm belief has always been that good intelligence is needed to protect the kind of freedom we enjoy in our great country. I believe this report will also show that we are getting good intelligence information which is so vital to our survival as a people and a Nation. I hope that this report will also show that congressional oversight of intelligence activities is effective, and that the American people are better off because of it.

In concluding, I would like to thank all of the staff for its fine work over the course of the 97th Congress. As well, I would like to thank Robin Cleveland, a professional staff member of the committee, who bore the major burden of preparing this report and coordinating its production with the members of our committee.



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Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to join the Senator from Arizona, Senator GOLDWATER, the distinguished chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, in submitting this report of the committee's activities during the 97th Congress.

As vice chairman of the select committee for those 2 years, I believe the report accurately reflects the work done by the committee.

The report is important because it is an opportunity for the Senate and the public to get some sense of the nature of the committee's oversight of the intelligence community. It is also important in that its compilation forces the committee to see where it has been these past 2 years and, implicitly, where it is headed.

We do well to recall the situation in 1976 when the select committee was established. Investigations had revealed that our intelligence agencies abused their authority. In addition, the intelligence community had experienced a 40-percent reduction in personnel in the previous decade. Yet the world was becoming an increasingly dangerous place as the Soviet Union was engaging in an unprecedented military buildup and the Third World presented new challenges to the interests of the United States. Not surprisingly, questions were raised about the ability of the CIA and its sister agencies to supply the President and his advisers the kind of information they need to steer a prudent course for American foreign policy.

During my 6 years on the committee, we have concentrated our efforts on two major tasks. The first of these was to establish effective mechanisms for insuring that the intelligence community stays within the bounds of the law and common decency. The second was to provide the resources necessary for rebuilding our intelligence capabilities. It is to be hoped that the readers of this report will cull from its somewhat cryptic and numerous pages a sense that these tasks are in large part being accomplished.

Mr. President, in 1972, I observed that the public life of our age seems dominated by the unexpected and the unforeseen, while the task of governing seems increasingly that of imposing some measure of order on this less than cosmic chaos. I referred to the task as one of coping—of striving or contending on equal terms with a measure of success. While my remarks then concerned the practice of Government in general, they are entirely applicable to the experience of the Select Committee on Intelligence. I think it can fairly be said that the committee has coped well with the issues it has addressed. But in citing the committee's accomplishments, there is no intent to imply a sense of complacency. Oversight is not a static process. We have laid only the first blocks in the reconstruction of our intelligence community, not the final edifice. We are still a young committee, and during its less than 7 years tenure, there has been a continual effort to identify ways to improve our oversight. This is the spirit in which the members of the committee will continue their work in the 98th Congress.